

MESSAGES, QUESTIONS, JEWISH OBSERVANCES,
PRAYERS/READINGS

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PRAYERS/READINGS

by Willis E. Bishop

Taught in classes at
Good Samaritan Village,
Kissimmee, Florida
from 1986 to 1999.

Willis E. Bishop was a professor at
Washington Bible College, Washington, D. C.
and Lanham, Maryland for thirty-five years.

DEDICATION

AND

PRESENTATION

The teaching and labor in this volume are dedicated to
the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Presentation of this volume is made to the Washington
Bible College and Capital Bible Seminary with the prayer
that the Bible student's knowledge and understanding of
the Word of God may be enriched and that Christ's gospel
may continue to be taught and spread throughout the
world.

November 1999

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Preface

These various studies and readings were presented by Willis E. Bishop at Good Samaritan Village, Kissimmee, Florida, between 1986 and 1999.

Transcriptions were made from cassette tapes with limited editing to preserve the teacher's style. Every effort was made for accuracy, and any errors may be attributed to the transcriber.

Willis Bishop taught most Bible and Bible-related subjects and was Professor of Old Testament at Washington Bible College in Washington, D. C. and Lanham, Maryland for thirty-five years. He also taught in churches of various denominations in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D. C.

The transcriber believes the benefit of Willis Bishop's years of research, study and teaching should be passed on to other students and teachers. The teacher urges all students to be "Berean" in their study of the Scriptures.

A transcript of notes on Christian music has been added by the transcriber for students who are interested in the ministry of music.

There is no copyright. Students are free to make copies of any material that will aid in their study of the Word of God.

Adele H. Bishop
Transcriber

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THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN FOUR PARTS
Message by Willis E. Bishop December 1997

Part One: The part the angels played.

Angels worshiped the Son throughout eternity past, but now what?

Hebrews 1:6: "... when He [the Father] brought the firstborn [Jesus] into the world, He [the Father] says, 'Let all the angels of God worship Him.'"

Luke 2:13, 14: "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men.'"

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From Heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Part Two: The part the shepherds played.

Luke 2:8: "And shepherds were in the same country, living in the fields and keeping watch in the watches of the night over their flocks."

For various reasons these were probably temple shepherds who lived out all yearlong to provide the 834 lambs that were necessary for the regular morning and evening daily sacrifices in the temple. In the wisdom of God these shepherds were chosen to visit the baby Jesus that night.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground,
An angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around,
And glory shone around.

Part Three: The part that Mary played.

Here is a correct syllogism:

Jesus is God incarnate (i.e., in human flesh.)
Mary is the mother of Jesus.

Therefore, Mary is the mother of God incarnate (i.e., in human flesh - emphasis mine).

Hebrews 10:5: "Therefore, when He [Jesus] came into the world, He [Jesus] said [to the Father], 'A body have You prepared for Me.'"

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN FOUR PARTS - Bishop

This was Mary's part: to provide a human body, a human soul, and a human spirit for Jesus. (And yet we read in Colossians 2:9: "In Him [Jesus] dwells all the fulness of deity bodily.") (Emphasis mine.)

There's a song in the air;
There's a star in the sky;
There's a mother's deep prayer,
And a baby's low cry.

There's a tumult of joy
O'er the wonderful birth,
For a virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth!

Part Four: The part that Joseph played.

Matthew 1:20: "Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to (Joseph) in a dream saying, 'Joseph, son of David'"

This is the only time in the Gospels, and Joseph is the only person called "son of David" other than Jesus Christ.

My suggestion: If there had been a kingdom of Israel at that time, Joseph would probably have been king! And this right as king passed on to his legal son, Jesus Christ - who is "alive forever more" and will some day claim that throne.

Notice: When the wise men finally arrived in Jerusalem, their question to Herod was (Matthew 2:2), "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? ..."

This right of kingship was a part that Joseph played in the Christmas story.

In the little village of Bethlehem
there lay a Child one day.
And the sky was bright with a holy light
o'er the place where Jesus lay.
Alleluia! O how the angels sang.
Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light;
'Twas the birthday of a King.

Our part:

Luke 2:11: "There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Emphasis mine.)

Will you play your part and receive Him?